

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process of enterprise system management for use with an enterprise-wide network which includes at least one centralized computer and a plurality of desktop computers, the method comprising the steps of:
 - 5 storing an Already Have list for each desktop;
 - storing a plurality of Should Have sub-lists;
 - allowing the specification, unique fingerprinting (OID's) and aging of configuration information to be used in the process of generating (resolving) Should Have lists;
 - 10 generating a respective Should Have list for a desktop computer during configuration of the desktop computer, during which structural information (OIDCs) is calculated and imbedded in the Should Have List/Sublists, list/sublist last update date/time is percolated to higher list levels, and where configuration items and lists can be associated using
 - 15 dynamically resolved linkages;
 - differencing the Already Have and Should Have lists and sublists via a combination of structural verification, fractional change detection using the imbedded structural information (OIDCs) and date/time differences between the structures to detect all changes without having to
 - 20 process all items in all lists/sublists;
 - wherein the Schema of the generated Should Have list allows dynamic linkage with no disadvantage in performance or efficiency.